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Please amend claims 1-3, 6, 12-15 as follows:

- D1
1. (3X Amended) A chimeric protein for inhibiting the expression of a gene which comprises (1) a DNA methyltransferase whose DNA-binding activity is attenuated relative to that of naturally occurring DNA methyltransferase, and (2) a DNA binding protein linked thereto that binds to the gene's promoter sequence under conditions permitting the methylation of a methylation site within the promoter, thus inhibiting expression of the gene.
 2. (Amended) The protein of claim 1, wherein the promoter sequence of the gene is a 5' long terminal repeat sequence of a human immunodeficiency virus-1 proviral DNA.
 3. (Amended) The protein of claim 1, wherein the gene comprises a retroviral gene, an adenoviral gene, a foamy viral gene, a parvoviral gene, a foreign gene expressed in a cell, an over expressed gene, or a misexpressed gene.

D2

 6. (3X Amended) The chimeric protein of claim 1, wherein the DNA methyltransferase is a *Spiroplasma* MQ1 DNA methyltransferase (*M.SssI* DNA methyltransferase) whose DNA-binding activity is attenuated relative to that of naturally occurring *M.SssI* DNA methyltransferase, or a mutated mammalian DNA methyltransferase whose DNA binding activity is attenuated relative to that of naturally occurring mammalian DNA methyltransferase.

D3

 12. (2x Amended) The method of claim 11, wherein the gene is an endogenous gene.